

MOJAVE DESERT SCIENCE SYMPOSIUM AGENDA

Tuesday, November 16

- 8:00 Registration/set up posters
- 9:00 Welcome: President Appleton, University of Redlands, California
Introduction/Announcements/Welcome
- 9:05 Charles Wilkinson, University of Colorado
- 9:45 Mike Pool, Bureau of Land Management, California State Director
- 10:25 Break
- 10:40 Steve Thompson, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Regional Director
- 11:20 Stanley D. Smith, University of Nevada, Las Vegas
- 12:00 Lunch/set up posters

Theme 1: Threats to the Mojave Desert: Past, Present and Future

- 1:00 *Introduction:* Jill S. Heaton, University of Nevada, Reno
- 1:10 *Keynote:* Robert Webb, US Geological Survey
- 1:40 *Atmospheric Deposition:* Edith Allen, University of California, Riverside
- 2:00 *Invasive Plants and Animals:* Todd Esque, US Geological Survey
- 2:20 Break
- 2:40 *Habitat Fragmentation:* Cameron Barrows, Coachella Valley Preserve
- 3:00 *A Case Study-Desert Tortoise:* C. Richard Tracy, University of Nevada, Reno
- 3:20 *Summary & Discussion:* David Miller, US Geological Survey
- 4:00 Poster Session #1
- 5:30 End of Day
- 6:00 Social: Hilton Hotel

Wednesday, November 17

Theme 2: Ecosystem Monitoring: Linking Ecosystem Attributes to Ecological Processes

- 8:30 Poster Session #2
- 10:00 *Introduction:* Eric McDonald, Desert Research Institute
- 10:10 *Keynote:* J. Mark Porter, Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden
- 10:40 *Biological Soil Crusts as Indicators:* Jeffrey Johansen, John Carroll University
- 11:00 *Value of Permanent Research Sites:* Lesley DeFalco, US Geological Survey
- 11:20 Break
- 11:40 *Linking Soils, Hydrology, and Vegetation Dynamics:* Erik Hamerlynck, Rutgers
- 12:00 *Monitoring Ecosystem Health: NPS "Vital Signs":* Gary Davis, National Park Service
- 12:20 *Summary & Discussion:* James André, University of California, Sweeney Granite Mountains Desert Research Center
- 1:00 Lunch

Theme 3: Natural Recovery vs. Active Restoration

- 2:00 *Introduction:* Lesley DeFalco, US Geological Survey
- 2:10 *Keynote:* Jayne Belnap, US Geological Survey

2:40 *Soil Formation in Ecosystem Restoration*: Eric McDonald, Desert Research Institute
 3:00 *Active Restoration of Disturbed Mojave Desert*: Dennis Hansen, Bechtel Nevada
 3:20 Break
 3:40 *Natural Recovery in the Mojave Desert*: David Bainbridge, United States International University
 4:00 *Tamarisk Removal and Riparian Restoration*: Michael Scott, US Geological Survey
 4:20 *Summary & Discussion*: Robert Webb, US Geological Survey
 5:00 Poster Session #3

Thursday, November 18

Theme 4: Scales and Sustainability

8:30 Poster Session #4
 10:00 *Introduction*: Lynn Fenstermaker, Desert Research Institute
 10:10 *Keynote*: James Brown, University of New Mexico
 10:40 *Landscape Ecology at Multiple Scales*: William Kepner and David Bradford, US Environmental Protection Agency
 11:00 *Ecological Effects of Climate Driven Processes through Time*: Kelly Redmond, Desert Research Institute
 11:20 Break
 11:40 *Global Warming*: Brett Riddle, University of Nevada, Las Vegas
 12:00 *Modeling Ecological Impacts of Alternative Development*: Mary Cablk, Desert Research Institute
 12:20 *Summary & Discussion*: Debra Hughson, Mojave National Preserve
 1:00 Lunch
 2:00 Panel Discussions: Moderator-Al Muth
 4:30 Closing Comments

Friday, November 19

Field Trip

**MDSS III Field trip
November 19, 2004**

**Highlights of the ecology and geomorphology of the greater Coachella Valley--
Joshua Tree--high Mojave Desert area**

Leaders: David Miller, Robert Webb, Matt Brooks, Cameron Barrows, Todd Esque

A one-day field trip via bus will leave from Redlands Friday morning, Nov. 19, and return to Redlands by 5:00. The trip will focus on ecological impacts to the southern California deserts, abiotic and biotic factors relevant to understanding these impacts, and restoration approaches. Examples will include the importance of sand sources to fringe-toed lizard sand dune habitat; role of invasive species in fire-fuel loads; effects of off-highway vehicle traffic, and controls on vegetation by soils. The trip will tour through low and high desert, visiting a wide variety of plant communities and visiting special features such as clonal creosote bush. Cost is \$45 with an optional purchase of a lunch.

Field trip stops currently planned include: (1) Palm Springs area, eolian sand sources for Coachella fringe-toed lizard habitat with implications for management; (2) Joshua Tree National Park, fire ecology and mortality of Joshua Trees; (3) Joshua Tree National Park, role of geomorphology and soil development on soil moisture and plant structure; (4) high desert, off-road vehicle impacts and recovery; (5) high desert, role of exotic grasses in the fire ecology of creosote bush scrub; and (6) Lower narrows of the Mojave River, riparian vegetation changes and relation to water impoundment.